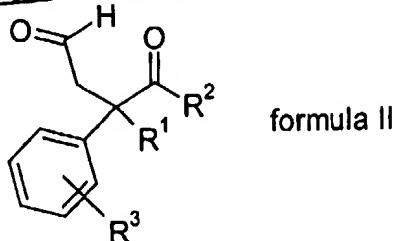


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula II:



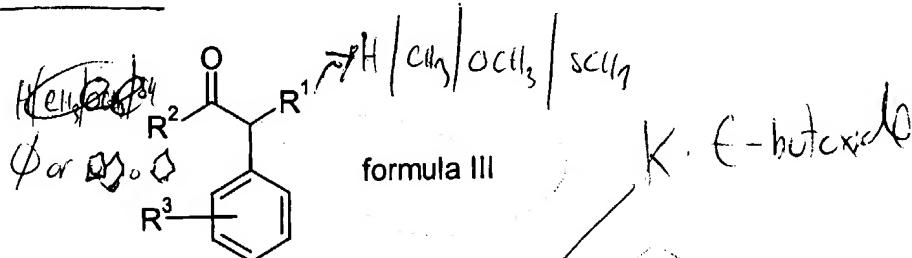
wherein

R^1 is hydrogen, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, (C_1 - C_6)alkylthio;

R^2 is phenyl, naphthyl or (C_3 - C_{12})cycloalkyl substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, (C_1 - C_6)alkylthio, (C_2 - C_6)alkenyl, (C_2 - C_6)alkynyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkylhalo, (C_3 - C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3 - C_8)cycloalkenyl or halo;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, (C_1 - C_6)alkylthio, (C_2 - C_6)alkenyl, (C_2 - C_6)alkynyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkylhalo, (C_3 - C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3 - C_8)cycloalkenyl or halo, comprising,

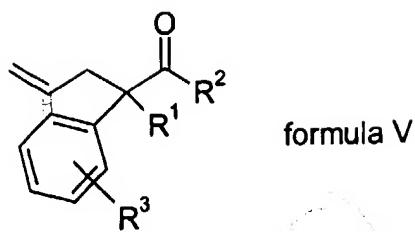
treating a compound of formula III



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are described as above, with a suitable base and a compound of formula IV:



wherein X is a suitable leaving group, to provide the compound of formula V



Ozone
and oxidizing the compound of formula V with a suitable oxidizing agent to provide the compound of formula II.

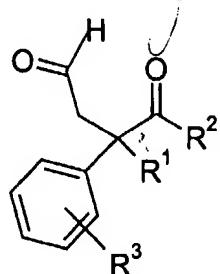
2. A process according to claim 1 wherein
 R^1 is CH_3 ;
 R^2 is cyclohexyl; and
 R^3 is hydrogen.

3. A process according to claim 2 wherein
 X is Br or Cl.

4. A process according to claim 3 wherein the suitable oxidizing agent is ozone.

5. A process according to claim 4 wherein the suitable base is potassium tert-butoxide.

6. A compound of the formula:



*different compound than
 01/209, 533 (6, 239, 135)*

6-7 dms

wherein

R^1 is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio;
 R^2 is phenyl, naphthyl or (C_3-C_{12}) cycloalkyl substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio.

(C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylhalo, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkenyl or halo;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylhalo, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkenyl or halo.

7. A compound according to claim 6 wherein

R¹ is CH₃;

R² is cyclohexyl; and

R³ is hydrogen.